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“Governor Brewer, we are at crisis point.”

Komen SAZ supports Jan Brewer’s proposals to restore Medicaid

TUCSON (April 15, 2013) – The Southern Arizona Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure today lent its support to Governor Jan Brewer’s efforts to expand Arizona’s Medicaid program, otherwise known as AHCCCS.

In a heartfelt letter to the Governor, Komen SAZ explained that a fall in donations and an increased demand for services has brought it to “crisis point” because it will be unable to fully fund grant requests this year.

It stated: “Due to the economic pressures felt by all non-profits, our donations have declined. We simply have less money to grant to community health care centers to support those affected by breast cancer with nowhere else to turn.

“At the same time as our donations have decreased, applications for grants from local health clinics, hospitals and other health providers have increased, totaling \$872,500 this year. We will struggle to meet those requests.

“Governor Brewer, we pride ourselves on our work but we at Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southern Arizona Affiliate are at crisis point. We simply do not have the funds to meet our local health demands.”

In its letter to the Governor, Komen SAZ explained that the community health care centers it supports through grants serve as a ‘last resort’ for Southern Arizonans who fall through the gaps in this state’s healthcare system. That may be because they are childless adults, earn \$1 over the income levels set out by AHCCCS rules, are under-insured, or are unable to afford to buy health insurance.

It tells of the telephone calls received every week at the Tucson office, from those who have fallen through the cracks in the state’s healthcare system. It concludes: “We believe that your proposal to restore medical coverage to thousands of working poor adults in Arizona would ease [our] crisis: if

more people were covered by AHCCCS, we would have less ‘gaps’ to fill in, and our funds would stretch further.”

Komen SAZ recently joined with other Arizona non-profits to form a coalition to support the Governor’s Medicaid restoration proposals. Other members of The Coalition of Voluntary Health Organizations are: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.; American Heart Association/American Stroke Association – Arizona; American Lung Association – Arizona; Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers; Arthritis Foundation – Arizona; Arizona Public Health Association; Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Central and Northern Arizona Affiliate; and Arizona Hemophilia Association.

In a [joint opinion piece](#) submitted to newspapers, the Coalition asks the public and legislators to consider not only economic and political arguments for Medicaid restoration, but the people of Arizona, whom its member organizations assist and serve.

In order to grant as much as possible this year, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southern Arizona has extended the deadline to collect donations for Race for the Cure, its major fundraiser, which took place March 17th. The deadline to make donations to the 2013 Race is April 30th.

About Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southern Arizona

- 75% of net proceeds to the Affiliate stay in Southern Arizona and are turned into grants; 25% of net proceeds go to international breast cancer research.
- This year’s Race for the Cure moved to the UA Mall for the first time and attracted 5,300 people. To donate visit Registration details at <http://www.komensaz.org/komen-race-for-the-cure/donate/>

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